



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2004

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7452

**TWENTY-NINE MEMBERS OF ARYAN CIRCLE INDICTED
ON FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CHARGES**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced this morning the indictment and arrests of twenty-nine Odessa, Texas, area residents on federal drug and firearm charges. Twenty-eight of the twenty-nine indicted have been arrested.* Today's arrests highlight the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas's effort to dismantle organized criminal enterprises while helping to reduce the demand for drugs in West Texas.

"These arrests and charges are the result of a four year effort between local, state and federal law enforcement to dismantle the illegal Methamphetamine production and distribution activities of the Permian Basin division of the Aryan Circle," stated **United States Attorney Johnny Sutton**.

Those indicted and arrested include:

Charles Samson, a.k.a. Killer
Michael Curtis Lewis, a.k.a. Bones
Victor Wesley Tucker, a.k.a. Pokey
Christopher Daniel Barrandey
Johnny Hines, Jr.
Malachi David Wren
Susan Marie Creel
Jerry Wayne Beason
Jeffrey Austin Jordan, a.k.a. Pitbull, Crazy J
Christopher Donald McElwee, a.k.a. Sundance
Tony Brent Wilkins
Shane Samson, a.k.a. Buffy
Lori Samson
Johnny Wayne Hines, Sr.

Calvin Glenn Bailey
Patrick Daniel Catoe
Andrew John Criswell, a.k.a. Snyder John
Leonard Duane Griffith, a.k.a. Radar
Michael Norris Martin, a.k.a. Mikey
Max Edwin Mays, a.k.a. Mad Max
Curtis Wade Perkins, a.k.a. Hammer
Kevin Lynn Renfro, a.k.a. Westwood
Anthony Wade Rister
Buddy Ford
Michael Wayne Nichols
Donnie Thompson
James Coleman Eaton
Jerry Don Witt, II, a.k.a. J-Bird

All twenty-nine defendants were charged with Conspiracy to manufacture, distribute, and possess with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine or more than 500 grams of a substance or mixture containing methamphetamine and face a minimum 10 years to life in prison. Charles Samson, Michael Lewis, Victor Tucker, Christopher Barrandey, Johnny Hines, Jr., Malachi Wren, and Susan Creel are also charged with being part of a Continuing Criminal Enterprise to produce more than 15,000 grams of methamphetamine and face up to life in prison. Some defendants were also charged with additional gun crimes.

— more —

According to the indictment, in 1985, inmates inside the Texas prison system founded an organization known as the Aryan Circle (AC), which claims its purpose is to promote and celebrate the “true history, culture and heritage” of the Caucasian race, but in reality the primary purpose of the organization is to promote, facilitate and further the criminal activities of its members.

The indictment further alleges that the Aryan Circle operates both inside and outside the Texas prison system with approximately 70 members in the Permian Basin division. The main activities of the AC’s Permian Basin division are the manufacture of methamphetamine, thefts, burglaries, and robberies. The defendants attempt to keep control of methamphetamine production in the AC Permian Basin division through the use of extortion, assaults and robberies of AC and non-AC methamphetamine producers.

Since January 2000, the Permian Basin AC has manufactured and distributed over 15,000 grams of methamphetamine and is also responsible for assaulting other methamphetamine producers in an effort to get them to produce the drug for the Aryan Circle organization. The group is also responsible for stealing credit cards, checks, and personal financial information to commit identity theft.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Odessa Police Department, along with the Ector County Sheriff’s Office, Midland County Sheriff’s Office, Midland Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, West Texas Narcotics Enforcement Task Force, Andrews Police Department, Andrews County Sheriff’s Office, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Drug Enforcement Administration, Crane County Sheriff’s Office and Crane Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Mark Roomberg and Glenn Roque-Jackson.

**Timothy Bishop, a.k.a. Mississippi has been indicted but not yet arrested. He remains a fugitive from justice.*

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

#####